



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

Week Ending May 1, 2005

Issued weekly, April-November

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa

Average Week for Field Work: Cooler temperatures prevailed in much of the Keystone State, hindering growth and limiting field work in selected areas. Initial concerns over the lack of growing degree days have some producers concerned with late crop development. Much needed rain fell in drier areas of the state, replenishing soil moisture to more adequate levels. While temperatures have not been ideal, several reports have come in that this spring has had the best conditions for field work in quite some time. Overall, 4 days were suitable for field work this past week. Principal farm activities included plowing in preparation for corn and soybean planting, hauling manure, machinery maintenance, spraying fruit, planting corn, oats, and potatoes, caring for livestock, and planting assorted vegetable crops.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 1, 2005

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	3	85	12

Crops: Farmers continued to plant oats well ahead of pace as 86 percent of this year's crop is now planted. This is 22 percentage points ahead of historic averages. Soil temperatures have affected emergence, as 27 percent of oats have emerged. This is slightly behind historic averages. Oat conditions remained steady as 81 percent of what has emerged is rated as either good or excellent. Twenty-eight percent of barley is headed, ahead of last year's pace but behind the 5-year average. Plowing is well ahead of schedule and is now 75 percent complete. Thirty-two percent of corn has been planted, well ahead of last year. Some producers were able to plant soybeans this past week, as well as 7 percent of this year's crop was planted. Fifty percent of potatoes have been planted, well ahead of the normal pace for this time of year. Ninety-two percent of tobacco has been planted. Six percent of winter wheat has headed, which is on pace for this time of year. Winter wheat conditions were rated with the following for the week: 1 percent poor, 15 percent fair, 66 percent good, and 18 percent excellent. Alfalfa is estimated to be 1

percent very poor, 3 percent poor, 22 percent fair, 62 percent good, and 12 percent excellent. Likewise, timothy clover stand was rated as 2 percent poor, 31 percent fair, 56 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

Ninety-nine percent of peaches are now in pink stage and 95 percent are in full bloom. One hundred percent of cherries have reached pink stage and 97 percent are in full bloom. Also, 74 percent of apples have reached pink stage and 68 percent are in full bloom. All fruit crops are well ahead of historic averages in development for this time of year.

Livestock: Farmers are rotating animals from field to field throughout the state. Pasture conditions were rated as 2 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 42 percent good, and 16 percent excellent. This is relatively unchanged from last week.

U.S. As of April 24, 2005: Highlights: Above-normal temperatures again prevailed across most of the Nation, most notably in the Corn Belt and Great Plains. However, temperatures dropped well below normal over the weekend, reaching near freezing in the central Corn Belt and below freezing in the northern Corn Belt and northern and central Great Plains. Temperatures were not low enough to damage newly emerged corn and jointing winter wheat in these areas. Corn: Planting advanced to 30 percent complete, 5 percentage points behind last year but 8 points ahead of normal. Winter Wheat: Eighteen percent of the crop was at or beyond the heading stage, compared with 22 percent last year and 17 percent for the 5-year average. Small Grains: Barley growers had sown 34 percent of their acreage, compared with 44 percent last year and 29 percent for the 5-year average. Oat planting advanced to 67 percent complete, 3 points behind last year but 10 points ahead of normal. Forty percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 39 percent last year and 36 percent for the 5-year average. In the Ohio Valley, growers took advantage of dry weather early in the week, planting 33 percent of their acreage in Ohio and 28 percent in Pennsylvania despite heavy rainfall in the latter half of the week.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 1, 2005

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 1, 2005					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	68	34	45	-6	1.13	6	4.30	0.95	15	77	40	253
Franklin	67	31	44	-7	1.00	6	3.97	0.32	13	65	29	280
Meadville	64	30	44	-6	0.86	6	3.31	-0.10	13	80	54	292
Mercer	67	23	42	-9	1.30	6	4.93	1.44	13	42	5	237
Springboro	67	32	44	-7	1.72	6	5.21	1.96	13	47	6	219
Warren	68	31	44	-7	1.19	5	4.65	1.00	13	60	32	263
North Central												
Bradford Region	63	25	41	-6	0.62	7	2.71	-0.79	14	33	18	190
Emporium	68	30	44	-4	0.43	7	2.30	-1.26	13	54	36	254
Kane	67	27	41	-6	0.67	7	3.24	-0.52	14	20	6	172
Laporte	65	29	44	-7	0.50	6	5.20	1.81	14	53	7	231
Lock Haven	72	33	47	-5	0.15	5	2.53	-0.66	10	88	38	320
Port Allegany	67	27	42	-7	0.26	4	2.08	-1.18	11	39	17	198
Renovo	70	33	47	-6	0.28	6	2.11	-1.08	13	84	34	317
Ridgway	68	30	43	-5	0.55	5	2.65	-0.91	11	36	18	220
Stevenson Dam	70	32	45	-4	0.51	6	2.56	-1.00	13	71	53	296
Towanda	70	30	47	-4	0.20	4	4.59	1.58	11	58	12	261
Wellsboro	66	29	42	-5	0.34	3	3.18	0.74	11	50	33	207
Williamsport	70	34	50	-4	0.14	4	4.51	1.17	9	118	43	361
Northeast												
Hawley	69	28	45	-5	0.53	5	5.85	2.30	12	41	18	219
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	32	50	-3	0.18	4	4.02	0.94	10	124	69	364
Susquehanna	68	31	46	-2	0.43	5	4.66	0.92	12	51	32	244
West Central												
Butler	68	32	46	-6	1.03	6	4.11	0.79	13	85	36	332
New Castle	69	28	46	-6	1.15	5	5.31	2.18	13	92	56	330
Slippery Rock	67	33	46	-5	1.13	5	4.91	1.66	13	88	57	339
Central												
Altoona/Blair	67	32	47	-7	0.01	1	0.64	-2.64	5	105	38	343
DuBois	66	30	45	-7	0.56	7	2.74	-0.72	16	87	53	311
Lewistown	70	35	50	-5	0.33	6	2.53	-0.53	12	110	23	365
Middletown	69	37	53	-3	0.51	3	4.99	1.62	9	176	71	454
Prince Gallitzi	67	30	45	-6	0.46	5	2.39	-2.00	11	48	16	258
Selinsgrove	68	33	48	-5	0.33	4	4.78	1.49	10	82	17	322
State College	69	33	48	-5	0.24	4	1.57	-1.44	11	108	56	355
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	36	51	-3	0.62	5	6.57	2.92	12	132	56	397
Lehighton	70	34	49	-6	0.77	5	7.02	3.62	11	89	20	336
Matamoras	70	28	46	-8	1.25	6	5.80	1.70	14	58	4	262
Tobyhanna	70	34	49	3	0.88	6	5.58	1.38	13	81	66	320
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	70	32	49	-5	0.72	5	2.68	-0.66	11	181	113	455
Derry	69	32	46	-6	0.92	7	3.83	0.45	14	97	55	346
Myersdale	65	28	44	-9	0.39	4	2.11	-1.98	10	36	-10	227
Mount Pleasant	70	32	47	-4	0.70	7	1.88	-2.36	15	96	66	349
Pittsburgh Intl	70	32	49	-6	0.73	6	3.26	0.00	15	154	76	420
Rector	68	31	46	-4	0.79	7	3.10	-1.14	15	89	59	337
Waynesburg	69	32	47	-6	0.85	6	2.73	-0.86	13	96	38	350
South Central												
Biglerville	71	36	51	-6	0.70	4	3.88	0.40	11	129	24	396
Everett	64	32	46	-7	0.37	4	1.97	-1.48	10	48	-9	258
Hanover	71	37	52	-4	0.67	4	4.13	0.65	10	137	32	400
Shippensburg	73	35	52	-5	0.62	4	2.91	-0.43	11	137	27	397
South Mountain	70	36	51	-3	0.72	4	4.28	1.00	11	127	63	396
York	71	35	53	-4	0.54	3	3.91	0.20	9	156	48	421
Southeast												
Green Lane	71	37	52	-2	0.62	3	7.29	3.46	10	125	56	391
Hamburg	71	36	52	-1	0.71	4	5.24	1.29	10	143	95	407
Hopewell	71	37	52	-5	0.90	4	5.25	1.42	11	127	15	395
Lancaster	70	36	52	-3	0.60	3	4.16	0.61	8	149	69	420
Neshaminy Falls	72	36	52	-3	1.14	3	4.89	0.76	10	98	20	346
New Holland	69	34	52	-3	0.46	3	4.41	0.86	9	156	76	426
Philadelphia	71	40	56	-1	1.33	4	5.37	1.62	10	197	78	494
Philadelphia NE	73	38	55	-2	1.14	3	4.87	1.12	8	190	71	477
Reading	71	37	53	-1	0.52	3	5.02	1.07	9	164	96	440
Valley Forge Na	67	32	50	-7	0.92	5	7.64	3.81	10	118	6	367
Willow Grove	70	38	54	-1	0.16	4	4.68	0.55	10	164	86	442

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy Behney (FSA) - Most of Adams County had at least an inch of rainfall last weekend and this week has been cooler and cloudy with sporadic rain showers. Field work continues to progress, and producers are planting corn. Fruit crops are all in bloom. Cherries, peaches, plums, apricots are past full bloom and apples are about 70% full bloom. Wheat and barley conditions are the same as last week.

BERKS COUNTY, Mena Hautau (EXT) - Apple growers are reporting an excellent fruit set. Some late pruning is still occurring in orchards. Orchards trapping moths report flights on OFM this past week. Progress is being made on field tillage and manure spreading this week. The greatest progress has been made with new forage (hay) seedings. Some corn was planted. Rye is in boot stage.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue (FSA) - Rains have returned to the area, slowing field work, which was making significant progress. Recent rain has slowed spring plowing and oat planting.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It's been too cold and damp to see much progress in growth of the hayland and pastureland. I haven't seen any oats emerge yet. Most of the spring plowing is completed, but the farmers are waiting for a little heat before putting corn or potatoes in the ground.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - It was another good week for field work. The total rain for the week was 1/2 an inch. We continue to need showers to improve topsoil moisture. Corn planting is getting underway.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - Corn and soybean planting is under way, but soils are still cold, so most growers are waiting.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - A wet week for getting any field work done. Pasture conditions have started to improve with the cool, wet weather.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tim Mussmon (AgChoice) - This past week was fair weather for planting with overcast skies part of the week. The crop conditions are excellent, and all we need is a couple of good growing degree days and spring harvest should be starting for some crops.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY, John Rowehl - Despite forecasts to the contrary, little rain occurred and field work progressed ahead of normal. Barley began heading out in places. The earliest planted corn was emerging.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H Craig (EXT) - Concerns have been raised about slow increases in soil temperatures and the resulting effect on seed germinations. Lots of corn and some soybeans have been planted but no emergence. Soil temperatures are not rising due to colder temperatures. Some sunny weather with 70 degree temperatures is needed.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - Low temperatures have slowed growth of hay; many farmers slowed down on farming practices due to rain and cool temperatures.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr (FSA) - A few spotty showers this week. Lots of corn was planted, and some producers have now completed their early plantings. Ground preparation for soybeans but very little planted yet. Some alfalfa was cut late this week in southern parts of the county. All fruit crops are looking good at this point. Peaches are nearly past full

bloom, and apples are approaching full bloom. No frost is predicted, so everything looks good at this time.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY, John Esslinger (EXT) - Cool weather has slowed or postponed vegetable planting. Soil conditions are good.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Burell Whitworth Jr (NRCS) - Lots of corn was planted before the rain came Friday night and Saturday.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Andrew Frankenfield (EXT) - Things were much slower week this week compared to the previous two. Showers and clouds every few days prevented the ground from drying out enough to do much field work. Timothy fields that have yet to be sprayed for mites are showing stress. Oats are emerging as well as spring seeded grass fields. Rye and barley are heading. If the forecast for the upcoming week is correct, corn planting should be getting under way.

PERRY COUNTY, Jeremiah J Trout (AgChoice) - The weather has been cool and wet. The small amount of corn planted a couple of weeks ago needs some sun. The corn emerged quickly and then the cool, wet weather has stunted its growth.

PERRY COUNTY, David L Swartz (EXT) - Cool temperatures over the past two weeks have delayed pasture grass growth and kept seeds (grass, field corn, and commercial vegetable) from germination and emergence. Vegetable growers with cold-sensitive crops (especially tomatoes) in high tunnels have had to find supplementary heating due to the continuing cold nights.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY, Terry Stehr (FSA) - Light rain on Saturday kept everyone out of the field, but amounts were not significant. Planting is proceeding at a rapid pace.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C Sheaffer - The significant rainfall last weekend replenished soil moisture; however, the cool temperatures and strong, blustery winds were not conducive to favorable growing conditions. The wheat and barley made significant growth during the week. The main activities for the week were plowing, planting corn and oats, spreading manure, and performing machinery maintenance tasks.

SOMERSET COUNTY, Ken Soldano - We need some dry weather.

TIOGA COUNTY, J Craig Williams (EXT) - Winter came back with very cold, frosty mornings. The grass is still greening up slowly.

TIOGA COUNTY, Pamela Barnes - Very cold week with a few mornings in the low 30's. Field work is progressing at a fair pace. New seedings are germinating at a very slow rate. We're waiting for sunshine and warmer temperatures to start planting corn.

UNION COUNTY, Glenn Spangler - Cool weather has slowed crop planting this week. Appears that there will be a higher percentage of no-till crops planted this year, as plowing has not progressed as much as expected with the weather conditions this spring.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - It was a cool, damp week that slowed the progress of some recently planted crops. Most growers are caught up with tillage and are prepared to continue with corn and soybean planting when temperatures warm and soils dry. The first alfalfa harvest is probably still at least two weeks away.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 1, 2005

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	75	67	58
Corn, planted	32	19	17
Barley, heading or headed	28	20	33
Wheat, heading or headed	6	4	7
Oats, planted	86	70	64
Oats, emerged	27	32	32
Soybeans, planted	7	2	2
Tobacco beds, planted	92	100	100
Potatoes, planted	50	38	24
Peaches, in pink	99	100	77
Peaches, in full bloom or past	95	88	70
Cherries, in pink	100	100	74
Cherries, in full bloom or past	97	100	67

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 1, 2005

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Wheat	0	1	15	66	18
Oats	0	3	16	68	13
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	1	3	22	62	12
Timothy clover stand	0	2	31	56	11
Pasture	2	6	34	42	16

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